Environmental Toolbox

Technical Module

Natural Resource Protection

Objectives

- Understand the importance of protecting natural resources in a base camp and the surrounding area:
  - For deploying troops' safety, health, and reputation
  - For local and broader security considerations
  - For future generations
- Employ practices to minimize negative impact and enhance positive impact
- Establish a management process for these considerations

Lack of information and awareness is the primary reason natural resources are damaged

What Natural Resources Need to be Protected?

- Water resources
- Wildlife, especially protected and endangered species
- Flora and fauna
- Minerals and other non-renewable resources
- Habitat (soil, water, airspace)
  - eco-systems
  - critical habitats
  - conservation areas
  - bird areas
  - migration routes

Why Should You Care?

- Protection of natural resources in a base camp can:
  - Support sustainability of these resources, such as water
  - Preserve unique and endangered resources that can be of worldwide significance
  - Foster good will from local government and community
  - Maintain local community and potential future tourism assets
- Failure to do so can
  - Affect base operations. For example, destroying vegetation can eliminate roots, which stabilize the soil. Soil erosion can mean more funding is needed for construction projects or for stopping erosion in order to protect existing facilities
  - Strain relations with the local community or host nation, such as affecting local food and water supplies
  - Adversely impact overall sustainability
  - Impact climate change

Meeting mission requirements is paramount, but every effort should be made to protect these resources to the extent possible

Examples of Laws and Regulations

- International examples
  - United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
  - United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
  - European Union’s Natura 2000
- Also consider
  - Own nation’s laws and regulations
  - Those of the host nation
  - Mission regulations

Environmental Officer(EO) Responsibilities

- Access government intelligence and other information, public documents and websites prior to deployment (e.g., UN's Convention on Biological Diversity website)
- Be familiar with and understand applicable laws and policies (e.g., international, your own nation's, mission regulations, host nation law)
- Work with local, international subject matter experts (SMEs), e.g., Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (e.g., World Wildlife Foundation, National Geographic Societies)
- Identify protected indigenous plants and wildlife and their habitats during base selection and set-up
- Create a list of protected natural resources within the base (and area of operations), and keep it updated. Provide this information to the base commander so that troops can be given guidance to try to:
  - Avoid adverse effects if possible
  - Minimize direct impacts and collateral damage if avoidance is not an option
  - Recovery: when natural resources have been damaged, take appropriate responses and reactions
  - Maximize respect for and protection of natural resources; this can result in greater mission success
- Document information prior to transfer and/or closure of the base camp

What You SHOULD Do

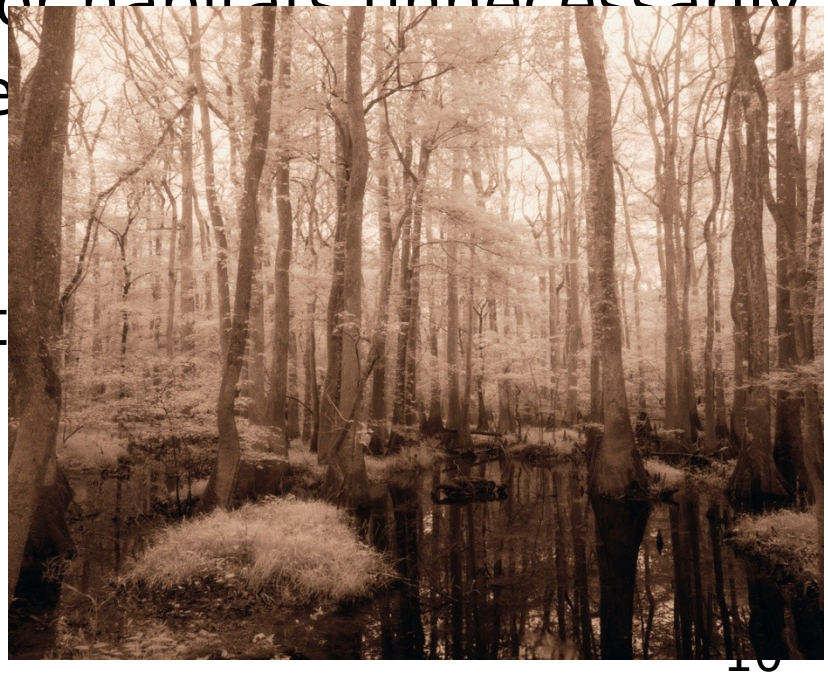
- Adopt sustainable water use practices
- Avoid unnecessary destruction of vegetation
- Avoid movement in and around sensitive habitats as much as possible
- Minimize off-road damage as much as possible
- Cross streams only at authorized points

What You SHOULD Do

- Refrain from clearing vegetation on steep slopes or along streambeds (this can cause soil erosion)
- Prevent base camp from being stripped of vegetation
  - Remove only what is necessary for the mission and safety
  - Use camouflage nets (instead of branches from live trees)
- Encourage water conserva
  non-renewable resources
- Instruct troops to report injured animals. Provide guidance on when to
  - Seek veterinary help
  - Leave in place

What You Should NOT Do (unless militarily required)

- Do not drive directly up steep hills or through wetlands
- Do not alter the courses of waterways
- Do not take flora or fauna samples
- Do not damage trees or habitats unnecessarily
- Do not waste resources such as overuse of water or excessive destruction of vegetat



What You Should NOT Do

- Unnecessarily disturb, capture, hunt or collect as pets any wild animals
- Take or buy wildlife products while deployed

STOP BUYING WILDLIFE PRODUCTS FROM AFGHANISTAN!

There may be fewer than 100 snow leopards left in Afghanistan. If you buy snow leopard pelts, you are violating the law, and

Find out more about the conservation of Afghan wildlife at www.wcs.org/afghanistan.

What You Should NOT Do

Do not improperly dump trash—it can attract wild animals, which can present threats to humans (as well as animals)!

Examples of Wildlife-Related Training Materials

Source: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Military-WCS Projects: Training Materials

www.wcs.org

WCS Wildlife Trade
A Programmatic Website

Training Materials

Initiatives > Military-WCS Projects > **Training Materials**

Snow Leopard Business Card

Business card-sized outreach card that shows a snow leopard, with various reasons listed on the back of why not to buy snow leopard products, as well as a listing of the website.

Wildlife Trade Smart Card

Smart Cards are quick references for soldiers and service members to study and have readily available when needed; pocket cards depict images of wildlife and products focusing on Iraq and Afghanistan. Click here to download a copy.

Wildlife Trade Slide Show

Forthcoming in February 2011. A PDF of Power point slides on wildlife trade products and CITES to be incorporated in pre-departure and in-theater briefings.

Training Fact Sheet

Synopsis of CITES and wildlife trade issues to be distributed to officers prior to departure and in-theater.

Cat Fur Identification Guide Version 1 & Version 2

Two .PDFs of posters used for training military police about how to identify fur from cats. All products containing any amount of cat fur not allowed to be transported across international borders.

WCS Wildlife Trade
A Programmatic Websi

Training Materials

Initiatives > Military-WCS Projects > **Training Materials**

WCS Guide to Restricted Species of Afghanistan

A list and photos of internationally recognized protected mammal species in Afghanistan. These are species which cannot be traded.

Program Fact Sheet

Synopsis of the project to be used by the Legacy office for outreach; The Fact Sheet is a required product for all Legacy projects.

Standard Military Form 4856

A military form used by Officers when **educating** or training subordinates about particular issues. This form is completed with information pertaining to the wildlife trade issue.

Training Videos

A five-minute and 20 minute training video summarizing the key points regarding wildlife trade and the military.

http://programs.wcs.org/wildlifetrade/Initiatives/MilitaryWCSProjects/TrainingMaterials.aspx

Wildlife Trade and the U.S. Military Abroad: Raising awareness and reducing demand

Project #09-444

Background:

Military personnel and affiliates posted oversees have significant buying power that influences local markets, including the ability to drive the demand for wildlife products. Purchase and transport of many wildlife products violates U.S. law and obligations to international agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Endangered Species Act. Demand for wildlife and wildlife products poses one of the greatest threats to wild species, leading to local, regional and potentially global extinctions.

Arabian Sand Gazelles, a CITES species ©Eric Beden

In May 2007, staff from the Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) first noticed illegal items for sale on military bases near Kabul and witnessed military personnel purchasing the items. A survey of 395 Soldiers at Fort Drum in June 2008, revealed that more than 40% of those surveyed purchased or saw someone else in the military purchase wildlife items yet less than 12% knew about CITES. Military personnel who either knowingly or unknowingly purchase, transport, or attempt to import illegal wildlife trade products risk confiscation of items and legal action including fines or imprisonment for violating U.S. Law, International Law, and Military Regulations.

Sand cat (Felis margarita) ©Xavier Eichaker

On-base market selling furs ©Elisha Hubbard

Objective:

The goal of this Department of Defense Legacy Program-funded project is to decrease the demand for wildlife products by U.S. military stationed abroad by communicating the legal and environmental concerns regarding wildlife trade to military personnel who may be deploying to or stationed in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Local market in Kabul ©WCS

Summary of Approach:

WCS has partnered with Legacy to develop outreach and education materials targeting U.S.-based military who are about to be deployed or stationed overseas with a particular focus on soldiers going to Iraq and

Afghanistan. We are networking with military personnel to develop clear messages that resonate with military personnel about the potential concerns pertaining to the purchase of wildlife products while stationed overseas. We are communicating these messages through outreach materials: an officer training fact sheet, a Smart Card for Soldiers, several power point presentations of varying lengths that can be downloaded and used by military staff to train enlisted personnel, a website to house the information and display materials for Safety Day at Fort Drum and other exhibit opportunities.

Safety Day at Fort Drum © Leslie Karasin

Benefit:

The conservation benefits are 1) reducing demand for products from species whose populations are near extinction or whose status is unknown, 2) raising awareness within the military, especially with the military police, about the issues of wildlife trade. The military benefits are 1) bringing U.S. military personnel into compliance with U.S. and international wildlife trade laws, 2) reducing potential for military personnel to violate laws governing wildlife trade because they were not aware of the laws, 3) raising the military conservation image for addressing the purchase of illegal wildlife items by military personnel, 4) contributing to the mission of the U.S. military 'Winning Hearts and Minds' by reducing demand for potentially scarce and/or culturally significant natural resources thereby avoiding local instability in rural, subsistence, or tribal communities which often depend on natural resources for survival, 5) reducing potential corruption due to connections between illegal wildlife trade and trade in other illegal substances (e.g., drugs, arms, etc).

On-going partnership with WCS and the military © WCS Afghanistan

Important Laws Governing Wildlife Trade
International and US Laws:
WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Leave Wildlife in the Wild
when you are shopping overseas.
LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD
Wildlife Diversity in Afghanistan and Iraq

Smart Card developed for soldiers © WCS

Accomplishments:

To date, we have developed several outreach products that will be distributed to key personnel within the military. The products include a Smart Card, a training fact sheet for officers, Form 4658 with information on wildlife trade, displays for Safety Day at Fort Drum and other installations as available, and several power point presentations. We are developing a web site to house the products. In addition we have networked via email, phone and by attending the DoD Sustaining Military Readiness Conference with numerous military staff to discuss best approaches to addressing the issue. Our work has been recognized as an innovative partnership for addressing the issue of wildlife trade in The New York Times.

Business Card Reminder © WCS

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Posters to Raise Awareness

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO SELECTED CITES APPENDICES I&II WILDLIFE SPECIES RESTRICTED FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Cheetah

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 1 – All Trade Illegal
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Highly Endangered to Extinct; Confirmed population of only 50 in Iran.
SIZE: Head and Body Length 1.5 m; Tail 60-70 cm.
COLOR: Color light yellow. Mid-size cat species. Spots are solid black.

Persian Leopard

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Panthera pardus saxicolor*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 1 – All Trade Illegal
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Endangered (IUCN) due to fur trade and hunting.
SIZE: Head & Body Length: 1.0-1.9 m; Tail: 58-100 cm.
COLOR: Color variable from golden orange to pale cream near Herat. Spots are darkened, often incomplete, rings with orange or yellow filling.

Snow Leopard

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Uncia uncia*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 1 – All Trade Illegal
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Highly Endangered
SIZE: Head & Body Length: 1.0 – 1.3 m; Tail: 80-100 cm.
COLOR: Color light. Ranges from pale gray to cream color. Markings are faint against fur, and range from spots on head to large rings on tail. Chest and belly fur is long. Tail is extremely wide and nearly equal to body length.

Leopard Cat

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Prionailurus bengalensis*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 1 & 2
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Status unknown. Heavily hunted in Afghanistan for fur.
SIZE: Small cat; Head & Body Length: 44 cm – 65 cm;Tail: 23-44 cm.
COLOR: Coloration is tawny/yellow with medium to large dark brown to black spots which often coalesce into solid stripes on the top of the back and thin stripe markings on the top and side of the head. Tail ringed at tip.

Himalayan Lynx

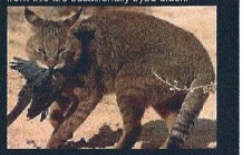
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lynx lynx isabellina*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 2. Restricted.
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Threatened due to heavy hunting for furs and skins.
SIZE: Medium-sized Cat. Characterized by short tail, which is about 20 cm in length and terminates in a broad black tip. Body Length: 100 cm; Tail Length: 20 cm.
COLOR: Winter coat is silvery-gray with an undercoat of ginger-buff. The summer coat is shorter and has a reddish-buff. The underparts are pale sandy-yellow. May be spotted, although less so for Himalayan races.

Pallas' Cat

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Otocolobus manul*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 2. Restricted.
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Threatened. Heavily trapped in Afghanistan for fur.
SIZE: Small cat; Head & Body Length: 44 cm – 55 cm; Tail: 30 cm.
DESCRIPTION: Thick and luxuriant dense buff fur. Long tail characterized by thick fur with 5-6 narrow black rings and black bushy tip. Body unmarked except for 3 vertical black strips on lower back. Forehead and crown have scattered black spots, and black stripes radiating downward from corner of each eye.

Jungle Cat

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Felis chaus*
CITES STATUS: Appendix 2. Restricted
STATUS IN AFGHANISTAN: Heavily hunted in 1970's when it was #2 fur species harvested.
SIZE: HBL: 60-70cm; Tail: 25cm.
COLOR: Tail is ¾ the size of the body with two or three narrow black rings ending in a black tip. Body color is dark sandy, yellowish-gray, or tawny-red. Belly hair is pale cream, and long. Prominent dark brown median band running over the back. Legs have rings. Products made from this are occasionally dyed black.



Dept. of Natural Resource Management | Afghan Tourist Organization | National Environmental Protection Agency

The selected species above are part of a list of endangered species protected under Afghan, US, European Union laws, and the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). These species, and any products made from them, cannot be legally hunted, imported, or exported, without appropriate permits. Please assist us in stopping illegal trade in wildlife in Afghanistan by not buying wildlife products, including furs of wild species.

Find out more about how you can help save Afghan wildlife at www.wcs.org/afghanistan.

Conclusions

- Protection of natural resources in a base camp can:
  - Support sustainability of these resources, such as water, forests, endangered habitats
  - Preserve unique and endangered resources that can be of worldwide significance
  - Foster good will from local government and community
  - Maintain local community and potential future tourism assets